

October 26, 2017



Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of the public and private schools and America's libraries, we write today to urge you to appoint Joan H. Wade, Ed.D. to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts, a position being vacated by Brian Talbott and pursuant to § 54.501. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit this nomination.

Dr. Wade currently serves as the Executive Director for the Association of Educational Service Agencies, a professional organization serving educational service agencies (ESAs) in 45 states. AESA's regional agencies support more than 80 percent of the nation's schools, both public and private; more than 80 percent of certified teachers; more than 80 percent of all students. As a life-long educator, Dr. Wade's career in education spans more than three decades and includes service as a classroom teacher, library media specialist, district technology coordinator, and administrator. She has a proven track record in education, leadership and public service, a unique combination that would be a tremendous asset to the Board and the entire Universal Service Program. Her direct link to the nation's school systems—public and private—are a critical continuity when it comes to ensuring the voice of our nation's schools and the students they serve are appropriately represented.

As the Executive Director for AESA, Dr. Wade is committed the belief that lifelong learning founded on evidence based practices leads to continuous improvement for all learners. Our nation's success and growth depends on that of our students, and a key element of lifelong learning in today's increasingly connected world is adequate, affordable and appropriate internet access, especially in the school and library setting. E-Rate is the federal program that single handedly led the way in helping to transform telecommunications connectivity in schools and libraries across the nation.

Prior to her work at AESA and in addition to her work as an educator, Dr. Wade has extensive committee service experience that will be relevant to and supportive of her role on USAC. She has served on various statewide committees, including the first statewide broadband committee (it eventually became the TEACH board); the Wisconsin Association of Distance Education Networks; and the Wisconsin Education Technology Board (WETB). During her time as an elected State Representative, she served on the committee that set policies in place for legislators to have access to technology (laptops) on the floor of the state assembly and on the committee that recommended and approved live streaming during legislative floor periods (now known as WisconsinEye). As the administrator for CESA 6, she was appointed to the BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN) Advisory Committee and served as the Chairperson for that committee in 2005, a committee membership she retained for more than ten years.

The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), a coalition representing the nation's leading education and library associations, strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Wade to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. EdLiNC has been working with the Commission to improve the E-rate program since its inception. We believe that Dr. Wade's broad understanding of education, education leadership and education technology, coupled with a strong work ethic and deep commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the nation's students will add to the work of USAC as it moves forward.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Wade's nomination to the USAC Board of directors, representing schools and libraries that are eligible to receive discounts.

A copy of her professional biography is attached. If you have any questions, please email Noelle Ellerson Ng (nellerson@aasa.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[AASA, The School Superintendents Association](#)
[Association of Educational Service Agencies](#)
[Association of School Business Officials, International](#)
[American Library Association](#)
[Consortium for School Networking](#)
[International Society for Technology in Education](#)
[National Association of Elementary School Principals](#)
[National Association of Independent Schools](#)
[National Association of Secondary School Principals](#)
[National Association of State Boards of Education](#)
[National Catholic Educational Association](#)
[National Education Association](#)
[National PTA](#)
[National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium](#)
[National Rural Education Association](#)
[National School Boards Association](#)